



01-10-05

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Filed Via Express Mail pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10

Record No.: EV 479 701 493 US

On: JANUARY 7, 2005

By:

LINDA E. HASTINGS

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Attorney Docket No.: 100806-00056 (NEKU 19.181)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Eiki HASHIMOTO

Serial No.: 10/015,209

Filed: November 16, 2001

Title: **SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING APPARATUS
AND A SEMICONDUCTOR CIRCUIT DESIGNING METHOD
IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF STEPS IN A CIRCUIT DESIGN
AND A LAYOUT DESIGN IS REDUCED**

Examiner: Annette M. Thompson

Group Art Unit: 2825

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

SIR :

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 8, 2004, the period for responding thereto having been set to expire after January 8, 2005, please consider the following remarks: